

REMARKS

A Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, stating that amendments to the claims did not start on a separate sheet. Applicants have placed the claims so that they start on a separate sheet. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that their foregoing be entered.

This response is intended to be fully responsive to the Office Action having a mailing date of. Claims 1-7, 9, 11-20, 22-27, 29-32 and 34-76 are pending. In the non-final Office Action dated February 27, 2006, claims 9, 47 and 52-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable in view of Elliott (U.S. 6,614,781). Claims 12, 14-15, 17, 19, 26-27, 30-32, 34-36, 43-46, 48-52, 57-68, 71 and 74-76 are amended herein. Claims 8-10, 21, 28, 33 and 47 have been canceled. No new matter has been added by this response.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication on page 7 of the Office Action that claims 1-7, 11, 18, 20, 22-25, 37-42 are allowed and that claims 12-17, 19, 26-27, 29-32, 34-36, 43-46, 58-51 and 58-76 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Independent claims 9 and 47 have been cancelled. Claims 12, 14-15, 17, 19, 26-27, 30-32, 34-36, 43-46, 48-52, 58-68, 71 and 74-76 have been rewritten in independent form and are believed to be in condition for allowance. All remaining claims are believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on an allowed or allowable base claim. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn and the claims be passed to issue.

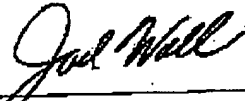
CONCLUSION

All rejections have been addressed. In view of the above, the presently pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

It is believed that any fees associated with the filing of this paper are identified in an accompanying transmittal. However, if any additional fees are required, they may be charged to Deposit Account 07-2347. To the extent necessary, a petition for extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) is hereby made, the fee for which should be charged against the aforementioned account.

Dated: June 16, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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